

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/341,328 07/06/99 MIKAMI

S KINOSHITACA

HM12/0223

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EXAMINER

PULLIAM, A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1615

8

DATE MAILED:

02/23/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/341,328	MIKAMI ET AL.
	Examiner Amy E Pulliam	Art Unit 1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2001.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 12-29 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 12-29 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

20) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment B, received January 11, 2001.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 132, regarding new matter has been withdrawn after reconsideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Old claims 12-23 and new claims 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,496,544 to Mellul *et al.* Mellul *et al.* disclose a cosmetic composition for skin consisting of a powder and a silicone resin mixture (abstract). Mellul *et al.* further teach that face powders and the like usually consist of coloured or non-coloured powders and a fatty binder, which is then applied to the skin by means of an applicator such as a sponge, powder puff, or brush (c 1, l 13-23). Mellul *et al.* disclose a cosmetic composition with a powder comprising a solid particulate phase mixed with a fatty binder containing a silicone mixture (c 2, l 48-58). It is the position of the examiner that Mellul *et al.*'s invention reads on applicant's claims. Applicant is claiming an applicator with a powder adhered to the side which will touch

the skin. Mellul *et al.* teach that powder puffs, applicators, and sponges are well known in the cosmetic art to apply facial powder and the like to the skin. Further, applicant claims that the powder adheres to the applicator through a treatment with a resin mixture. Mellul *et al.* teach a powder mixed with a silicone resin mixture (weight percents discussed in c 2, l 61), and teaches that it is applied to the skin in the usual methods (c 7, l 51-52). Mellul *et al.* do not teach the specific particle size of the powder. However, it is the position of the examiner that the specific particle size is a limitation that would be routinely determined by one of ordinary skill in the art, through minimal experimentation, as being suitable, absent the presentation of some unusual and/ or unexpected results. The results must be those that accrue from the specific limitations. Therefore, it is the position of the examiner that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use a well known applicator (as discussed by Mellul *et al.*) to apply a cosmetic composition comprising a powder and a silicone resin mixture, as taught by Mellul *et al.*. One of ordinary skill in the art would expect an improved cosmetic composition. Therefore, this invention as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed January 11, 2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Mellul *et al.* do not teach that the powder be "firmly adhered" to the side of the base layer which contacts the skin. It is the position of the examiner that this limitation is not patentably significant. Simply because Mellul

et al. are silent regarding applicant's specific terminology (firmly adhered), does not mean that the powder is not firmly adhered to the applicator. Further, it is the position of the examiner that the powder would have to be firmly adhered to the base layer in order to be functional as a makeup applicator. Additionally, the examiner considers that the phrase "firmly adhered" can be interpreted broadly, and therefore is no different than a powder which is simply adhered to the base layer. Lastly, the Office does not have the facilities for examining and comparing applicant's product with the product of the prior art in order to establish that the product of the prior art does not possess the same material structural and functional characteristics of the claimed product. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the burden is upon the applicant to prove that the claimed products are functionally different than those taught by the prior art and to establish patentable differences. See *Ex parte Phillips*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1302, 1303 (PTO Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1993), *Ex parte Gray*, 10 USPQ2d 1922, 1923 (PTO Bd. Pat. App. & Int.) and *In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 195 USPQ 430 (CCPA 1977).

Additionally, applicant argues that Mellul *et al.* do not teach a natural organic powder, but instead simply teach an organic powder. First, it is the position of the examiner that the term organic can be interpreted to mean natural, being that organic can be defined as something derived from living organisms. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art could consider that Mellul *et al.*'s teachings to any organic powder still renders applicant's claims obvious. However, the examiner refers to column 6, line 9 of the reference, which teaches that starch can be included in the powder composition as

a filler. Starch is a natural, organic material, and therefore fulfills the requirement for a natural, organic material in the powder composition. Furthermore, applicant's new claims 24-29 include specific examples of what applicant is referring to as a natural, organic powder. This list includes cellulose and collagen, among others, and is therefore rendered obvious by Mellul *et al.*'s teaching of starch, as well as the teaching in column 6, line 56, where Mellul *et al.* teach that collagen can be included in the powder composition. Therefore, old claims 12-23, and new claims 24-29 are rendered obvious by the teachings of Mellul *et al.*.

US Patent 5,776,497 to Lagrange *et al.* is hereby cited to be of interest in this application.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amy E Pulliam whose telephone number is (703) 308-4710. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K Page can be reached on (703) 308-2927. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7922 for regular communications and (703) 308-7922 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1234.

Amy E. Pulliam
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1615
February 20, 2001


THURMAN K. PAGE
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